

young birds. He also observed one of the Kites about twenty rods off, sitting on a stub in the pond, in the latter part of August. He also tells me that on August 30, on higher ground, within a mile of his house, two of the Kites flew past him within fifty yards, and afterward coursed about together low over a field of buckwheat, as if catching insects. One of these Kites had a very long and deeply forked tail, and was larger than the other, which had its tail but little forked or nearly even at the end. Two other persons told me about seeing one or two of the birds at or near the same place.

From seeing the locality, and from the information received, it seems probable that a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites bred, in 1886, in Rensselaer County, N. Y., at about latitude $42^{\circ} 53'$, longitude $73^{\circ} 33'$, and near 600 feet above tide water level.—AUSTIN F. PARK, *Troy, N. Y.*

The Barn Owl at Englewood, N. J.—At about six o'clock on the morning of August 26, near the centre of a tolerably dense wood, I started from its roost of the previous night, a bird I was unable to identify, and which eventually escaped me. The ground and bushes beneath the tree from which it had flown were spattered with its droppings, some of them not yet dry, and here a number of feathers were found, undoubtedly shed by the bird which had passed the night above. These feathers, the basal half of a primary, a covert from either wing, and a number of smaller ones, were forwarded to Dr. A. K. Fisher at Washington, who has kindly identified them as the feathers of a Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*).—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *Englewood, N. J.*

Carnivorous Propensities of the Crow (*Corvus americanus*).—My neighbor, Mr. E. M. Davis, indulges in the luxury of live pets, and amongst them is a Crow, reared by hand from the nest and now perhaps three or four months old. He manifests the usual inquisitive and mischievous habits of the species in confinement, secreting various objects for which he can have no possible use, and worrying on all occasions both the cat and the dog of the premises, by picking at their toes, pulling their tails, etc. He seems to fear nothing but a small rubber hose used for sprinkling purposes, upon the first appearance of which, even before any water was thrown, he manifested the utmost fright, and fled to the house and his master for protection; this he has repeated whenever the hose appears. Query: Is it a case of hereditary fear of snakes? Quite recently a young House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), not fully fledged, was captured and taken into the happy family, pains being taken to keep it away from the *cat*, but not from the *Crow*, which, at its first introduction, pounced upon it savagely, seized it by the neck, shook it as a terrier does a rat, and before it could be released the Sparrow had gone the way of all birds; portions of it being eaten by its destroyer. As the Crow had been well fed, on a diet embracing meat, grain, and vegetables, the killing of the Sparrow would seem to have been the outcome of natural propensities rather than the result of the pangs of hunger.—F. W. LANGDON, *Cincinnati, Ohio*.